

American foreign policy goals: security in the North Atlantic region and the expansion of democratic institutions and free markets.

Lithuania and Poland are meeting their responsibilities in the new Europe. They are leading the way in forging a new pattern of politics in Europe, as Secretary of State Albright called for during her trip to Lithuania last July. During her visit, Secretary Albright stated that any new members of NATO must be producers of security, not merely consumers. Mr. President, by reaching out to their neighbors—including Russia—Lithuania and Poland are showing themselves to be producers of security. They are, in short, excellent candidates for NATO membership. We in the Senate should do all we can to encourage Lithuania and Poland in their efforts to promote security in the North Atlantic region and to support their membership in NATO.●

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the U.S. Air Force on its 50th anniversary, which will be celebrated across the country on September 18, 1997.

On July 26, 1947, the National Security Act was signed into law by President Truman. This act established the U.S. Air Force as a separate branch of our Nation's Armed Forces. On September 18, 1947, W. Stuart Symington was sworn in as the first Secretary of the Air Force. Eight days later, Gen. Carl A. Spaatz became the Air Force's first Chief of Staff.

While 1947 marked the beginning of the Air Force as we know it today, the U.S. official involvement with the military applications of flight actually started 40 years earlier in 1907. On August 1 of that year—just 3 years after the Wright Brothers' historic first manned flight—the Aeronautical Division of the U.S. Army Signal Corps was established. This was the forerunner of today's Air Force. The Aeronautical Division's mission was to "take charge of all matters pertaining to military ballooning, air machines, and all kindred subjects." It is from this initial mandate that the Air Force has evolved into the indispensable force which today provides the United States with "Global Reach, Global Power."

With its founding in 1947, the Air Force became an equal partner with the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps in our Nation's Armed Forces. It did not take long for the Air Force to make history. Within 2 weeks of its creation, the Air Force hit the first of many impressive milestones. On October 14, 1947, a young Air Force captain by the name of Chuck Yeager courageously piloted the X-1 on the first supersonic flight.

Beginning in June 1948, it was the Air Force that was called upon to take the lead in the Berlin Airlift. Dubbed Operation Vittles and over the course of the

next 15 months, the Anglo-American airlift delivered a total of 2.3 million tons of food, fuel, and supplies to sustain the people of that beleaguered city.

The theme of this 50th anniversary year for the Air Force—"Golden Legacy—Boundless Future"—is very appropriate because facing challenges has been the hallmark of the Air Force. They have always aimed high. The Air Force has achieved countless numbers of aviation firsts that are the envy of the aeronautical world. Lesser known actions, though, are also an important part of the Air Force's golden legacy and should also be celebrated. For instance, on July 1, 1949, the Air Force became the first service to announce an end to racial segregation in its ranks.

The greatest strength in all of the military services has always been in its members themselves. Without any doubt and question, Gens. Hap Arnold and Jimmie Doolittle and Sen. Ira Eaker are great Air Force legends in their own right. So too though is Lt. Col. John Paul Stapp, a Air Force flight surgeon who in 1954 rode a rocket sled to 632 mph and then decelerated to zero in 125 seconds. He survived more than 35 times the force of gravity in order to determine if a pilot could eject from an airplane at supersonic speed and live. We should also remember Col. Robin Olds who, on January 2, 1967, became the first and only U.S. Air Force ace with 12 victories in World War II and 4 victories in Vietnam.

Over the past 50 years the men and women of the Air Force have served with honor and distinction in the major conflicts of Korea, Vietnam, and in the Persian Gulf. They have been the faithful stewards of two-thirds of America's arsenal of nuclear weapons. They have kept the peace deep below the Earth in missile silos and high in the heavens in reconnaissance aircraft.

The Air Force truly does have a golden legacy that we should all take time to reflect upon and honor. I am confident that the Air Force's rich history is the foundation of its boundless future. Regardless of any future threat our Nation may face, the Air Force will meet the challenge just as they always have.

I know my Senate colleagues join me in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the United States Air Force.●

CONDEMNATION OF BOMBING IN JERUSALEM

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of Senate Concurrent Resolution 50 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 50) condemning in the strongest possible terms

the bombing in Jerusalem on September 4, 1997.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the concurrent resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, Senator HUTCHINSON has two amendments at the desk which amend the resolution and the preamble.

I ask unanimous consent that the amendment to the resolution be agreed to, the resolution, as amended, be agreed to, the amendment to the preamble be agreed to, and the preamble, as amended, be agreed to.

I further ask unanimous consent that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1133) was agreed to, as follows:

On page 3, beginning on line 6, strike out "should provide" and all that follows through "it has fulfilled" and insert in lieu thereof "will only provide monetary or other assistance to the Palestinian Authority once it has fulfilled".

On page 3, strike out lines 16 and 17.

On page 3, line 18, strike out "(E)" and insert in lieu thereof "(D)".

On page 3, line 21, strike out "(F)" and insert in lieu thereof "(E)".

On page 4, line 1, strike out "(G)" and insert in lieu thereof "(F)".

On page 4, strike out lines 3 through 5.

On page 4, line 6, strike out "(I)" and insert in lieu thereof "(G)".

On page 4, line 9, strike out "(J)" and insert in lieu thereof "(H)".

On page 4, line 15, strike out "(K) taking affirmative steps to reduce the size of the Palestinian police force," and insert in lieu thereof "(I) taking affirmative steps to ensure that the size of the Palestinian police force is".

The amendment to the preamble was agreed to, as follows:

In the first clause, strike out "8 people" and insert in lieu thereof "7 people".

In the sixth clause, strike out "a list of 150" and insert in lieu thereof "a long list of".

In the eighth clause, strike out "over 260 Israelis" and insert in lieu thereof "more than 100 Israelis".

The concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 50), as amended, and its preamble, as amended, read as follows:

S. CON. RES. 50

Whereas on September 4, 1997, 3 bombs exploded in Jerusalem on Ben Yehuda Street, killing at least 7 people and injuring more than 165 others;

Whereas HAMAS, a terrorist organization, has a "military wing" which has claimed responsibility for this cowardly act;

Whereas Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestinian Authority, has made statements in which he said "HAMAS, even its military wing, is a patriotic movement.";

Whereas on August 20, 1997, Chairman Arafat publicly embraced the leader of HAMAS, Abdel Aziz al-Rantisi;